

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 68 and 69 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. to 29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously presented) An information processing apparatus which communicates with a device via a communication medium, comprising:

a detecting unit adapted to detect the device;

an obtaining unit adapted to obtain a device ID from the device in response to a detection of the device, wherein an optional device is connected to the device and wherein the device ID is determined depending on a connection status of the optional unit to the device;

a discriminating unit adapted to discriminate whether or not a device driver for controlling the device corresponding to the obtained device ID is installed; and

a warning unit adapted to warn when said discriminating unit discriminates that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not installed in the information processing apparatus.

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising an activating unit, adapted to activate the device driver to be used, when said discriminating unit discriminates that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not installed.

32. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the device is a printer.

33. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising a determination unit adapted to determine whether or not device drivers, which are activated in the information processing apparatus at present, are able to support a device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID on the basis of determining result of the obtained device ID.

34. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein, when said determination unit determines that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not supported by the activated device drivers, said discriminating unit performs the discriminating.

35. (Previously presented) An information processing method for an information processing apparatus which communicates with a device via a communication medium, comprising:

a detecting step of detecting whether or not the device;

an obtaining step of obtaining a device ID from the device in response to a detection of the device, wherein an optional device is connected to the device and wherein the device ID is determined depending on a connection status of the optional unit to the device;

a discriminating step of discriminating whether or not a device driver for controlling the device corresponding to the obtained device ID is installed; and

a warning step of warning when it is discriminated, in said discriminating step, that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not installed in the information processing apparatus.

36. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 35, further comprising an activating step of activating the device driver to be used when it is discriminated that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not installed in said discriminating step.

37. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein the device is a printer.

38. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 36, further comprising a determination step of determining whether or not device drivers, which are activated in the information processing apparatus at present, are able to support a device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID on the basis of determining result of the obtained device ID.

39. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein the discriminating of said discriminating step is performed when it is determined, in said determination step, that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not supported by the activated device drivers.

40. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium holding program codes for an information processing apparatus which communicates with a device via a communication medium, comprising:

program code to detect the device;

program code to obtain a device ID from the device in response to a detection of the device, wherein an optional device is connected to the device and wherein the device ID is determined depending on a connection status of the optional unit to the device;

program code to discriminate whether or not a device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is installed; and

program code to warn when it is discriminated, by said program code to discriminate, that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not installed in the information processing apparatus.

41. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 40, further comprising program code to activate the device driver to be used when it is discriminated, by said program code to discriminate, that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not installed.

42. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 40, wherein the device is a printer.

43. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 40, further comprising program code to determine whether or not device drivers, which are activated in the information processing apparatus at present, are able to support a device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID on the basis of determining result of the obtained device ID.

44. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 43, wherein the discriminating by said program code to discriminate is performed when it is determined, by said program code to determine, that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not supported by the activated device drivers.

45. (Previously presented) A computer program product comprising instructions for causing a programmable information processing apparatus which communicates with a device via a communication medium, comprising:

an instruction for detecting the device;

an instruction for obtaining a device ID from the device in response to a detection of the device, wherein an optional device is connected to the device and wherein the device ID is determined depending on a connection status of the optional unit to the device;

an instruction for discriminating whether or not a device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is installed; and

an instruction for warning when it is discriminated, by said instruction for discriminating, that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not installed in the information processing apparatus.

46. (Previously presented) The computer program product according to claim 45, further comprising an instruction for activating the device driver to be used when it is discriminated, by said instruction for discriminating, that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not installed.

47. (Previously presented) The computer program product according to claim 45, wherein the device is a printer.

48. (Previously presented) The computer program product according to claim 45, further comprising an instruction for determining whether or not device drivers, which are activated in the information processing apparatus at present, are able to support a device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID on the basis of determining result of the obtained device ID.

49. (Previously presented) The computer program product according to claim 47, wherein the discriminating by said instruction for discriminating is performed when it is determined, by said instruction for determining, that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not supported by the activated device drivers.

50. (Previously presented) An information processing apparatus which communicates with a device, comprising:

detecting means for detecting the device;

obtaining means for obtaining a device ID from the device, wherein an optional device is connected to the device and wherein the device ID is determined depending on a connection status of the optional unit to the device;

first determination means for determining whether or not the connected device can be supported on the basis of the device ID obtained by the obtaining means; and

installing means for installing a device driver corresponding to the device ID obtained by the obtaining means, when it is determined by the first determination means that the connected device can not be supported.

51. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 50, further comprising:

second determination means for determining whether or not there exists data to be printed in the information processing apparatus, when it is determined by the first determination means that the connected device can be supported; and

performing means for performing a printing operation on the data when it is determined by the second determination means that there exists data to be printed in the apparatus.

52. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 50, further comprising:

third determination means for determining whether or not a device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is installed, when it is determined by the first determination means that the connected device can not be supported,

wherein the installing means installs the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID when it is determined by the third determination means that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is installed.

53. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 52, further comprising:

warning means for warning, when it is determined by the third determination means that the driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not installed.

54. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the device comprises a printer.

55. (Previously presented) An information processing method in an information processing which communicates with a device, comprising:

a detecting step of detecting the device;

an obtaining step of obtaining a device ID from the device, wherein an optional device is connected to the device and wherein the device ID are is determined depending on a connection status of the optional unit to the device;

a first determining step of determining whether or not the connected device can be supported on the basis of the device ID obtained by the obtaining step; and

an installing step of installing a device driver corresponding to the device ID obtained by the obtaining step, when it is determined, by the first determining step, that the connected device can not be supported.

56. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 55, further comprising:
a second determining step of determining whether or not there exists data to be printed in the information processing apparatus, when it is determined, by the first determining step, that the connected device can be supported; and
a performing step of performing a printing operation on the data when it is determined, by the second determining step, that there exists data to be printed in the apparatus.

57. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 55, further comprising:
a third determining step of determining whether or not a device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is installed, when it is determined, by the first determining step, that the connected device can not be supported,
wherein the installing step installs the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID when it is determined, by the third determining step, that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is installed.

58. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 57, further comprising:
a warning step of warning, when it is determined, by the third determining step, that the driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not installed.

59. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 55, wherein the device comprises a printer.

60. (Previously presented) An information processing program executed in an information processing apparatus, comprising:

a detecting code for detecting the device;

an obtaining code for obtaining a device ID from the device, wherein an optional device is connected to the device and wherein the device ID is determined depending on a connection status of the optional unit to the device;

a first determining code for determining whether or not the connected device can be supported on the basis of the device ID obtained by an execution of the obtaining code; and

an installing code for installing a device driver corresponding to the device ID obtained by an execution of the obtaining code, when it is determined, by an execution of the first determining code, that the connected device can not be supported.

61. (Previously presented) The program according to claim 60, further comprising:

a second determining code for determining whether or not there exists data to be printed in the information processing apparatus, when it is determined, by an execution of the first determining code, that the connected device can be supported; and

a performing code for performing a printing operation on the data when it is determined, by an execution of the second determining code, that there exists data to be printed in the apparatus.

62. (Previously presented) The program according to claim 60, further comprising:

a third determining code for determining whether or not a device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is installed, when it is determined, by an execution of the first determining code, that the connected device can not be supported,

wherein, in an execution of the installing code, the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is installed when it is determined, by an execution of the third determining code, that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is installed.

63. (Previously presented) The program according to claim 62, further comprising:

a warning code for warning, when it is determined, by an execution of the third determining code, that the driver corresponding to the obtained device ID is not installed.

64. (Previously presented) The program according to claim 60, wherein the device comprises a printer.

65. (Previously presented) An information processing apparatus which is connectable to a device via a cable, comprising:

a detecting unit adapted to detect a device;

an obtaining unit adapted to obtain a device ID which the device determines to transmit to the information processing apparatus, on the basis of a type of an optional unit which

is attached to the device, wherein the device ID is determined depending on a connection status of the optional unit to the device; and

a discriminating unit adapted to discriminate whether or not a device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID exists in the information apparatus.

66. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 65, further comprising a warning unit adapted to warn when said discriminating unit discriminates that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID does not exist in the information processing apparatus.

67. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 65, further comprising a selecting unit adapted to select a device driver corresponding to the device ID obtained by the obtaining unit, to activate the device driver when the discriminating means discriminates that the device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID exists in the information apparatus.

68. (Currently amended) An information processing method for an information processing apparatus, comprising:

a detecting step of detecting whether or not a communication medium is connected to the information processing apparatus which is connectable to a device for receiving image data formed using a device driver via the communication medium and for processing the image data;

an obtaining step of obtaining a device ID which the device determines to transmit to the information processing device on the basis of a type of an optional unit which is attached to the device and in ~~and in~~ response to a detection, in said detecting step, of the connected communication medium wherein the device driver for driving the device and the device ID are in a one-to-one association; and

a discriminating step of discriminating whether or not a device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID exists in the information apparatus.

69. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium holding program codes for an information processing apparatus, comprising:

program code to detect whether or not a communication medium is connected to the information processing apparatus which is connectable to a device for receiving image data formed using a device driver via the communication medium and for processing the image data;

program code to obtain a device ID which the device determines to transmit to the information processing device on the basis of a type of an optional unit which is attached to the device and in ~~and in~~ response to a detection, by said program code to detect, of the connected communication medium wherein the device driver for driving the device and the device ID are in a one-to-one association; and

program code to discriminate whether or not a device driver corresponding to the obtained device ID exists in the information apparatus.